Psychology 2AP3: Abnormal Psychology - Major Disorders
Course Outline, Jan. - Apr. 2019

Time: **Mon., Wed., Thurs. 1:30 pm**
Classroom: **JHE-376**
Web site: **http://intropsych.mcmaster.ca/psych2ap3**
and on Avenue to Learn

Instructor: **Dick Day**
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Course Objectives

This course discusses the issues and controversies surrounding the meaning and categorization of psychological abnormality. We will also describe the major symptoms, hypothesized or suggested causes, and accepted treatments for major categories of mental disorder as described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of the American Psychiatric Association, version 5, always keeping in mind the criticisms of this categorization system.

The goals of the course include a deeper understanding of the nature, causes of, and current treatments for, psychopathology, and, more importantly, an appreciation for the tentative and incomplete nature of our understanding of mental illness.

Required Text: Barlow, Durand, Stewart & Lalumiere. (2015; 2018). *Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach*. (5th Canadian Edition). Nelson Education

Recommended Text: Day, R.B. **Abnormal Psychology 2AP3 Handbook. 2018-19 Term 2**. McMaster Custom Courseware, 2018.   (The book that you have in your hand.)

Course Outline:

The table below shows the topics we will be covering, and the order in which we will be covering them. The dates when each topic will be discussed are **approximate.**

Week of:	Topic	Text Readings
Jan. 7 Jan. 10 Jan. 17	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology	Chapters 1 and 2
Jan. 17 Jan. 21 Jan. 28	Neurodevelopmental Disorders: ADHD; Autism Spectrum Disorder	Chapter 14, pp. 481-501
Jan. 28 * Feb. 4 Feb. 11	Anxiety Disorders & Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders:	Chapter 5
Feb. 18	Break Week	
Feb. 25 Mar. 4 Mar. 11	Somatic Symptom & Dissociative Disorders: Conversion; Amnesia; Dissociative Identity Disorder	Chapter 6
Mar. 11 * Mar. 18 Mar. 25	Mood Disorders: Major Depression; Bipolar Disorders	Chapter 7
Apr. 1 Apr. 8	Schizophrenia	Chapter 13

	Classes end Tuesday, April 9th	

Evaluation: There will be two in-class tests, worth 30% each, and a final exam worth 40%. Each in-class test will consist of approximately 40 multiple-choice questions. You will have the first 60 minutes of the class period to complete each test. The midterms are non-cumulative, so the second midterm covered different material from the first midterm, though some questions may assume knowledge covered on the fisrt midterm.

The final exam will consist of 80 multiple-choice questions. You will have two hours for this test, which will take place during the December examination period. The final exam is cumulative with respect to lecture material, but NOT with respect to text readings.

The **finalized dates** for the in-class tests are as follows (and are marked on the course outline with an asterisk next to the date):

In-class Test #1: Thursday, February 14th
In-class Test #2: Thursday, March 21st

The **actual** dates of the in-class tests will depend on the availability of additional testing rooms (if required), and will be announced in class - and posted on the course website - **at least 10 days** prior to the actual test date. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU GET THIS INFORMATION.**

Missed Work: If you miss one of the in-class tests for documented medical or compassionate reasons, you should complete a Missed Work form in the office of the Associate Dean (Studies) of your Faculty. **Once your Associate Dean has accepted your reason for absence, the remaining in-class test and the final exam will be reweighted (40%, 60%, respectively) to cover the missed in-class test**. This is the only accommodation for missed midterms.

Discretionary notes will generally not be accommodated. Note also that the online student absence form (MSAF) can only be used once per term, only for medical absences, and only for assignments worth less than 30%. That means that **an MSAF will not excuse you from either of the midterm tests in this course.**

If you miss either midterm test WITHOUT a reason acceptable to the office of your Faculty's Associate Dean, I will weight that missed midterm as 10% of your final course grade (scored as a mark of 0%), and reweight the remaining midterm 35%, and the final exam as 55% of your final course grade. This reduces your maximum average in the course from 100% to 90%.

Final Grade Calculation and Adjustment: The final mark in Psychology 2AP3 will be computed by applying the following formula to the percentage scores on Test1, Test2, and Final Exam:

(Test1% x .30) + (Test2% x .30) + (Exam% x .40) = Final Course Percentage

Apart from excused or unexcused absences from an in-class test, every student will be assessed using the weighting formula shown above - with one exception:

In assigning final letter grades for the course I look at the pattern of performance over the two in-class tests and the final exam. If the overall average, as calculated by the formula above, is on the borderline of the next higher letter grade (e.g. 49%, 66%, or 84%) and if the marks on BOTH the final exam AND one in-class test are at the next higher level (e.g., D-, C+, A), then I will assign the next higher letter grade than the one indicated by your average (e.g., D-, C+, A).

If the overall average, as calculated by the formula above, is 2 marks below the borderline of the next higher letter grade (e.g. 48%, 65%, or 83%) and if the marks on both the final exam and one in-class test are at least 2 grade levels higher, (e.g., D, B-, A+), then I will assign the next higher letter grade.

Apart from this one final adjustment, final course grades in this course will not be changed unless they have been calculated incorrectly. I do not respond to phone, email or in-person requests to increase correctly-calculated grades in this course.

Note that although midterm and exam marks, and final course averages are posted on Avenue as well as on the intropsych Grades Lookup, **ONLY THE NUMERICAL POSTINGS ON THE GRADES LOOKUP REFLECT THE CORRECT CALCULATION OF YOUR MARKS AND FINAL AVERAGE**. The letter grades posted on Avenue and the Grades Lookup will be identical, and equally correct.

Some online applications provided for the use of students in this course reside on a server (intropsych.mcmaster.ca) that may not always be accessible. These applications include the **Grades Lookup**, and the **Online Sample Quiz**. While there is only a small chance that this server will fail, you should not assume that these applications will be available when you want to use them. Use of these applications is not required or necessary for excellent performance in this course.

Academic Integrity and Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of a academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at
http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
1. **Copying or using unauthorized aids on tests and examinations**.
2. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
3. Improper collaboration in group work.

Grading in Psychology 2AP3

The final mark in Psychology 2AP3 will be computed by applying the following formula to the percentage scores on Test1, Test2, and Final Exam:

(Test1% x .30) + (Test2% x .30) + (Exam% x .40) = Final Course Percentage

Note that Test1%, Test2%, and Exam% values in the above equation are rounded numbers, while the value within each pair of parentheses is **NOT** rounded before being summed to calculate the Final Course percentage. So a Test1% score of 72.5% is rounded to 73% before being multiplied by .30. The resulting value (73 x .30 = 21.9) is **NOT** rounded before being added to the Test 2 and Exam scores to calculate the Final Course Percentage (FCP). The calculated FCP **IS** rounded, so a FCP of 69.5% would be recorded as 70%, equivalent to a letter grade of "B-" in the course.

The Final Course Percentage will be translated into a letter grade according to the following table of equivalence:

% Score	Letter	% Score	Letter	% Score	Letter
90 - 100	A+	70 - 72	B-	53 - 56	D
85 - 89	A	67 - 69	C+	50 - 52	D-
80 - 84	A-	63 - 66	C	0 - 49	F
77 - 79	B+	60 - 62	C-		
73 - 76	B	57 - 59	D+		